

# **FAMOUS LARGE TORNADO OUTBREAKS IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Ranked according to severity...subjective due to increased warning lead time and fatalities, damage to increased property value**

---

## **1. SUPER OUTBREAK**

- \* April 3-4, 1974**
- \* Large part of the eastern U.S.**
- \* 148 tornadoes in 24 hours (many violent)**
- \* 315 deaths**
- \* 6,142 injuries**
- \* Damage \$600+ million**
- \* 12:00 pm - 7:00 am**

## **2. SUPER DIXIE OUTBREAK (preliminary)**

- \* April 27, 2011**
- \* Southeast portions of U.S.**
- \* 287 tornado reports in 24 hours (many violent)**
- \* Numerous highly populated areas hit**
- \* 3 EF 5 tornadoes, 13 EF 4 tornadoes**
- \* 354 deaths**
- \* thousands of injuries**
- \* Damage \$1+ billion**
- \* 3:00 pm - 12:00 am**

## **3. ENIGMA OUTBREAK**

- \* February 19, 1884**
- \* Southeast U.S.**
- \* 60 tornadoes**
- \* 420 deaths (but ranges from 182 to 1200 thus the enigma)**
- \* Damage \$3 million**
- \* 11:00 am - 11:00 pm**

## **4. PALM SUNDAY OUTBREAK**

- \* April 11-12, 1965
- \* Midwest/Great Lakes states
- \* 51 tornadoes (6 in Wisconsin)
- \* 260 deaths (3 in Wisconsin)
- \* 3148 injuries (65 in Wisconsin)
- \* Damage \$200+ million
- \* 1:00 pm - 1:00 am

## **5. TRI-STATE OUTBREAK**

- \* March 18, 1925
- \* Longest track on record by single tornado across SE Missouri, Srn Illinois, SW Indiana began at 1:00 pm and ended at 4:16 pm covering 219 miles
- \* At least 6 other tornadoes occurred in Kentucky and Tennessee
- \* 740 deaths (695 of these due to the Tri-State tornado)
- \* Well over 2000 injuries
- \* Damage \$18+ million
- \* 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

## **6. TUPELO - GAINESVILLE OUTBREAK**

- \* April 5-6, 1936
- \* Deep South (especially Tupelo, MS and Gainesville, GA)
- \* 17 tornadoes
- \* 446 deaths
- \* Well over 2000 injuries
- \* Damage \$18 million
- \* 8:00 pm - 9:00 am

## **7. ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI OUTBREAK**

- \* May 27, 1896
- \* Eastern Missouri/Southern Illinois (especially St. Louis, MO)
- \* 18 tornadoes
- \* 306 deaths
- \* Damage \$15 million
- \* 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## **8. ARKANSAS/TENNESSEE OUTBREAK**

- \* March 21-22, 1952
- \* Arkansas and Tennessee (especially Judsonia, Arkansas)

- \* 28 tornadoes
- \* 204 deaths
- \* 1000+ injuries
- \* Damage \$15 million
- \* 3:00 pm - 1:00 am
- \* First tornado watch ever issued by NWS

## **9. DEEP SOUTH OUTBREAK**

- \* March 21-22, 1932
- \* Deep South (especially Alabama)
- \* 33 tornadoes
- \* 334 deaths (268 of these in Alabama)
- \* Damage \$5 million
- \* 3:00 pm - 1:00 am

## **10. LOUISIANA/MISSISSIPPI OUTBREAK**

- \* April 24-25, 1908
- \* Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia
- \* 18 tornadoes
- \* 310 deaths (143 of these by one tornado that moved from LA to MS)
- \* Damage \$1 million
- \* 2:30 am - 1:00 am

## **11. EASTER SUNDAY OUTBREAK**

- \* March 23, 1913
- \* Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa (especially Omaha, NE)
- \* 8 tornadoes
- \* 181 deaths (94 of these in Omaha)
- \* Damage \$4 million
- \* 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

## **12. APPALACHIANS OUTBREAK**

- \* June 23, 1944
- \* West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland
- \* 4 tornadoes
- \* 153 deaths
- \* 846 injuries

- \* Damage \$5 million
- \* 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

### **13. MISSISSIPPI DELTA OUTBREAK**

- \* February 21, 1971
- \* Especially Mississippi, also Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee
- \* 10 tornadoes
- \* 121 deaths
- \* 1524 injuries
- \* Damage ?
- \* 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### **14. PENNSYLVANIA/OHIO OUTBREAK**

- \* May 31, 1985
- \* Pennsylvania/Ohio
- \* 27 tornadoes
- \* 75 deaths
- \* 850 injuries
- \* Damage \$450 million
- \* 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

### **15. RED RIVER VALLEY OUTBREAK**

- \* April 10, 1979
- \* Northern Texas/Southern Oklahoma
- \* 11 tornadoes
- \* 59 deaths
- \* 1916 injuries
- \* Damage \$63 million
- \* 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### **16. NORTHERN ILLINOIS OUTBREAK**

- \* April 21, 1967
- \* Especially Nrn Illinois, also Missouri, Iowa, Lower Michigan
- \* 52 tornadoes
- \* 58 deaths
- \* 1109 injuries
- \* Damage \$100+ million
- \* 12:30 pm - 9:00 pm

## **17. CAROLINAS OUTBREAK**

- \* March 28, 1984**
- \* North Carolina/South Carolina**
- \* 22 tornadoes**
- \* 57 deaths (37 % in mobile homes)**
- \* 1248 injuries**
- \* Damage \$200 million**
- \* 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

## **18. NOVEMBER OUTBREAK**

- \* November 10-11, 2002**
- \* Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania south to Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia**
- \* 92 tornadoes**
- \* 35 deaths**
- \* 200 injuries**
- \* 1:00PM-2:00AM**
- \* Highest November deaths on record**

## **19. MAY OUTBREAK**

- \* May 4, 2003**
- \* Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee**
- \* 90 tornadoes**
- \* 37 deaths**
- \* 2:00pm - 10:00pm**
- \* Period from May 4-11 - 400 tornadoes, 40 deaths, record \$2.2 billion in damage**
- \* All of May 2003, total of 562 tornadoes, average is 229.**

## **20. OKLAHOMA OUTBREAK**

- \* May 3, 1999**
- \* Oklahoma, Kansas**
- \* 70 tornadoes (50 in OK), largest outbreak in OK on record.**
- \* 55 deaths**
- \* 2000 injuries**
- \* Damage \$2 billion**
- \* 2:00pm - 10:00pm**

## **21. FLORIDA OUTBREAK**

- \* February 22-23, 1998
- \* central Florida
- \* 7 tornadoes
- \* 42 deaths, deadliest outbreak in FL history
- \* 260 injuries
- \* Occurred during a strong El Nino
- \* 9:00 pm - 3:00 am

## **22. PALM SUNDAY OUTBREAK**

- \* March 27, 1994
- \* Alabama, Georgia
- \* 12 tornadoes
- \* 40 deaths
- \* 460 injuries
- \* Damage ?
- \* 10:45 am - 8:15 pm

## **23. NOVEMBER OUTBREAK**

- \* November 21-23, 1992
- \* Southeast Texas to Mid Atlantic and Ohio Valley
- \* 94 tornadoes
- \* 26 deaths
- \* 641 injuries
- \* Damage \$291 million
- \* Began 1:30 pm Nov. 21 , Ended 7:25 am Nov. 23

## **24. PLAINS OUTBREAK**

- \* April 26, 1991
- \* Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska
- \* 54 tornadoes
- \* 21 deaths (13 in Andover, KS)
- \* 308 injuries
- \* Damage \$277+ million
- \* 2:30 pm - 11:00 pm

## **25. UPPER MIDWEST OUTBREAK**

- \* June 7-8, 1984
- \* Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin

- \* 42 tornadoes (9 in Wisconsin)
- \* 13 deaths (9 in Barneveld, WI - hit at 12:47 am June 8)
- \* 319 injuries (202 in Wisconsin)
- \* Damage \$100+ million
- \* 2:00 pm - 2:00 am

## **26. JANUARY OUTBREAK (MIDWEST)**

- \* January 24, 1967
- \* Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin
- \* 30 tornadoes (1 in Wisconsin)
- \* 7 deaths
- \* 268 injuries
- \* Damage ?
- \* 11:45 am - 8:45 pm

## **27. SUPER TUESDAY OUTBREAK**

- \* February 5-6, 2008
- \* Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama
- \* 87 tornadoes
- \* hundreds of injuries
- \* Damage \$1+ billion
- \* 2:00 pm - 2:00 am

## **28. LATE MAY OUTBREAK OF 2008**

- \* May 22-31, 2008
- \* A series of tornado outbreaks from the Southern Plains to Upper Midwest
- \* 235 total tornadoes
- \* EF 5 tornado in Parkersburg, IA on May 25<sup>th</sup> killing 9 people
- \* 12 deaths
- \* Damage \$343 million

## **29. OKLAHOMA OUTBREAK**

- \* May 10, 2011
- \* Oklahoma, Kansas
- \* 55 tornadoes (35 in Oklahoma)

- \* **2 fatalities**
- \* **over 100 injuries**
- \* **Damage in the millions of dollars**

### **30. MINNESOTA OUTBREAK**

- \* **June 17, 2010**
- \* **Mainly Minnesota, but also North Dakota and Wisconsin**
- \* **77 tornadoes (1 in Wisconsin)**
- \* **four EF 4 tornadoes in Minnesota**
- \* **3 deaths**
- \* **Damage in the millions of dollars**

### **31. KANSAS OUTBREAK**

- \* **May 4-5, 2007**
- \* **Two day tornado outbreak, mainly across Kansas (including Greensburg EF 5)**
- \* **144 tornadoes from South Dakota to Texas (most in Kansas)**
- \* **13 deaths and many injuries May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1 death May 6th**
- \* **Damage \$268 million**

### **32. UPPER MIDWEST APRIL OUTBREAK**

- \* **April 9-10, 2011**
- \* **mainly Iowa on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin on the 10th**
- \* **55 total tornadoes**
- \* **no deaths**
- \* **Damage in the millions of dollars**